

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 735

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, WB

SUBJECT: FORMATION OF NEW BERLIN GOVERNMENT

1. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, SPD-FDP NEGOTIATIONS FOR NEW BERLIN GOVT ARE MOVING AHEAD SMOOTHLY AND RAPIDLY. GOVMAYOR SCHUETZ, WHO RETURNED TO BERLIN EARLY FROM HIS EASTER VACATION TO BE ON HAND FOR VISITS OF CODELS SCHWEIKER AND HUMPHREY-SCOTT, HAS BEEN CLOSETED WITH KEY FDP FIGURES ALL WEEK. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TWO PARTIES ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, INTER ALIA ON EDUCATIONAL REFORM AND CITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, ARE REPORTEDLY BEING RESOLVED MORE EASILY THAN ANTICIPATED. IN PAST FEW DAYS, DISCUSSIONS HAVE CENTERED AROUND COMPOSITION OF GOVT, BUT AGAIN NO MAJOR DIFFICULTIES APPEAR TO HAVE ARISEN.

2. FDP IS APPARENTLY WILLING TO SETTLE FOR POSITION

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OF MAYOR AND THREE SENATORIAL SEATS. (FDP CHAIRMAN

LUEDER REMINDED US APRIL 1 HE HAD NEVER SPOKEN OF MORE THAN THREE SENATE SEATS FOR FDP DESPITE PRESS REPORTS ABOUT FOUR.) IT APPEARS THAT FDP FRAKTION CHAIRMAN OXFORD WILL BE MAYOR AND WILL REPLACE KORBER AS SENATOR FOR JUSTICE; LUEDER WILL BE NAMED SENATOR FOR SCIENCE AND ARTS IN SUCCESSION TO RETIRING WERNER STEIN; AND FDP ECONOMIC EXPERT EMIG WILL ASSUME POSITION OF SENATOR FOR ECONOMICS LEFT VACANT BY KARL KOENIG'S RETIREMENT. OTHER INCUMBENT SPD SENATORS ARE EXPECTED TO RETAIN THEIR POSTS. NEUBAUER, DESPITE CRESCENDO OF CRITICISM AGAINST HIM FOR FAILURE OF BERLIN POLICE TO APPREHEND VON DRENKMANN MURDERERS AND LORENZ KIDNAPPERS, WILL APPARENTLY STAY ON AS SENATOR FOR INTERIOR, AND ILSE REICHEL WILL REMAIN SENATOR FOR FAMILY, YOUTH, AND SPORT DESPITE SCHUETZ'S REPORTED PREFERENCE FOR HER FELLOW LEFT-WINGER, HARRY RISTOCK.

3. POSSIBILITY OF SURPRISES NOW APPEARS MINIMAL AND CHANCES ARE GOOD THAT SMOOTH TRANSITION FROM SPD GOVT TO "COALITION OF LOSERS" WILL BE SHORTLY COMPLETED. GEORGE

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